

**NOTICE OF A CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED
REPLACEMENT OF THE TOPSAIL ISLAND BRIDGE OVER THE
INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY ON N.C. 50/210 IN SURF CITY**

TIP Project No. B-4929

WBS#: 40233.1.1

Pender County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a corridor public hearing for the proposed replacement of the Topsail Island Bridge (Number 16) on Thursday, December 8, 2011, at the Surf City Community Center, located at 201 Community Center Drive.

An informal pre-hearing open house will be held from 3:30-6:30 p.m. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project. There will be an opportunity to submit written comments or questions.

The public hearing will begin at 7 p.m. and will consist of an explanation of the proposed project corridor locations. Citizens will be able to speak, ask questions and/or turn in comments immediately following the formal presentation. The presentation and public comment period will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared.

Anyone wishing to speak at the public hearing may register at the sign-in table during the pre-hearing workshop hours. Speakers will be called in the order they sign in and have a 3-minute time limit so everyone who would like to speak will have an opportunity to do so. Anyone who would like to speak and did not sign in will have the opportunity after those who registered have spoken. Written comments bear the same weight as spoken comments.

NCDOT proposes to build a new bridge to replace the existing swing bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway on N.C. 50/210 in Surf City. This is one of two bridges that provide access to Topsail Island. The existing bridge is a steel truss swing span bridge that was built in the 1950s and is due for replacement. NCDOT will be presenting seven bridge replacement alternatives. A series of public workshops and on-going meetings with environmental regulatory agencies have narrowed down the alternatives. More than 20 design alternatives were initially evaluated for this project.

This proposed project will improve traffic flow by providing wider travel lanes for all vehicles, maintain boat traffic on the Intracoastal Waterway, and minimize traffic delays. The bridge will include access for pedestrians and bicycles.

An environmental document was prepared for this project and was approved by the Federal Highway Administration in October. This document, known as the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Corridor Public Hearing

Maps displaying the seven remaining alternatives are currently available for public review at the following locations:

- NCDOT Division Engineer's Office, 5501 Barbados Boulevard, Castle Hayne;
- Town of Surf City, 214 N. New River Drive;
- Town of North Topsail Beach, 2008 Loggerhead Court; and
- Town of Topsail Beach, 820 S. Anderson Boulevard.

Copies of the EA document and maps also can be found on the project's website at: www.ncdot.org/projects/TopsailIslandBridge.

For more information, please contact Ed Lewis, NCDOT- Human Environment Unit, by phone at (919) 707-6078 or via email at: elewis@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments regarding the proposed project may be submitted to Mr. Lewis until January 18, 2012.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Lewis as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.